

II. REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed August 11, 2004. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-14 and 21-33 are allowed. Applicants further note with appreciation that claims 39 and 46 define patentable subject matter and would be allowable if placed in independent form (with all recitations of all intervening claims).

By the present Amendment, claims 34-38, 40-45, and 47-52 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue such cancelled subject matter through one or more continuation applications. Claims 39 and 46 have been rewritten in independent form incorporating features of the base claim, and in view of the above are now in a condition for allowance. This is not a narrowing amendment. After entry of the present claim amendments, claims 1-14, 21-33, 39, and 46 are pending in the application.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Basam E. Nabulsi
Registration No. 31,645
Attorney for Applicant

Post Office Address (to which correspondence is to be sent)

McCarter & English, LLP
City Place I
185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103
Telephone No. (203) 965-0601
Facsimile No. (860) 724-3397

HARTFORD: 627395.01

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